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Brussels,

[Redacted]  
Thank you for your letter of 25 February 2021.

The EU and the US are most important trading and investment partners. We fully share your views on the importance of this transatlantic relationship.

The European Commission is committed to reinvigorating these ties. The Joint Communication "A New EU-US Agenda for Global Change" of 2 December 2020 contains our proposals on cooperation with the new US administration. One important pillar of cooperation enabling us to deal with the global challenge of the digital transformation is the establishment of an EU-US Trade and Technology Council.

With it, we would be able to find convergence and to shape jointly the standards, rules, measures and policies on technology and digital services, rather than leaving this field to other actors less aligned with the societal values we share with the US. Acting together as an alliance of democracies and as major trading partners, we can protect our free and open markets operating on democratic principles, while ensuring a level-playing field for the competitiveness and technology leadership of our companies.

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President von der Leyen took up this issue with President Biden in their call on 5 March 2021. As Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People and Executive Vice-President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age, respectively, we have been asked to lead this high-level forum on the European side, thereby underlining the importance we attach to the Trade and Technology Council. As key US Cabinet appointments have now been confirmed, we expect to discuss this initiative in more detail with our American counterparts soon.

While the Trade and Technology Council is foreseen to be primarily a government-to-government dialogue, it can only achieve its goals if it serves the needs and interests of businesses, workers and consumers, both in the EU and the US. Therefore, we see the involvement of stakeholders, including the Trans-Atlantic Business Council, as important partners in this endeavour. This will also be part of our discussions with the US.

Allow us again to thank you for your support. We would like to encourage you to send the same clear messages on the need for a strong transatlantic trade and investment partnership and on the Trade and Technology Council to the US administration.

Yours sincerely,



Margrethe Vestager



Valdis Dombrovskis